

"SOMETHING TO GROAN ABOUT" (Latest news of the Crosby crash -p.4.

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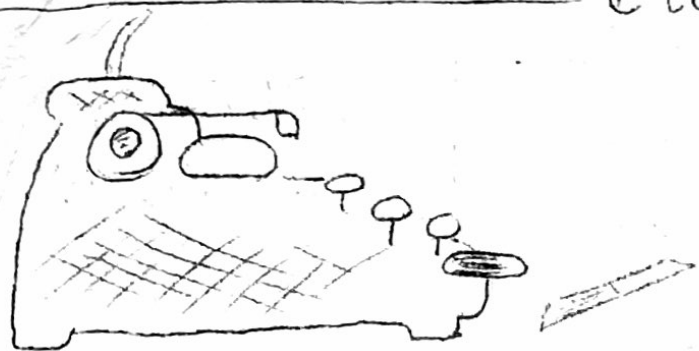
Crosby Post

JOURNAL
OF THE CROSBY
SOCIETY.



BING CROSBY
&
JANE WYMAN

Crosby Post



EDITORIAL

1954 and the "Crosby Society" is flourishing. We are strating one more year of trying to give the

Crosby fans news and information about the most listened to voice in the world. Now all the requests for "White Christmas" on BBC and Radio Luxembourg have been fulfilled we can look forward to the summer release of the film version.

Bing's recent car accident was given liittle space in the English press and we hope you are well satisfied with the way we have covered the story for you. Our news, like our record reviews, is never Crosby biassed. It is much more unfortunate for a big name like Bing Crosby of Hollywood when this big name is involved in an accident. His fans think it was the other person's fault and the few who don't like Mr. C. choose to think it was his fault. Let us hope that this judge likes Bing Crosby and the plaintiff equally well.

While in the other part of this issue you read of the virtuous German car which, apparently, helped save Bing from serious injury or death we would like to suggest that when Bing buys his next car he has a good look at the Rolls Royce models. It is no secret in these days of fast, careless drivers that one can only command the road if you happen to be sitting behind that gigantic singularly designed radiator that is the figurehead of the Derby made Rolls Royce. When another driver of any other make of car sees a Rolls-Royce, and whoc can mistake it's tank like appearance?, he knows he'll come off worst if he tries to outwit or play tricks onit's driver. If you are not a driver then be assured - other drivers do play tricks and generally flirt with death in this country and, it seems, in the United States.

Well, this is not an official road safety week, so best new year wishes to all, and a fast farewell for this month.

STARS of STARS — No. 2

MR. Jack Buchanan

GARRICK THEATRE
CHARING CROSS ROAD
LONDON W.C.2

To: THE CROSBY SOCIETY.

I certainly count myself as an honorary member of The Crosby Society as I am a great fan of his.

Actually Bing and I have been friends for a good many years, although we do not see very much of each other as our paths usually lie in different directions, but I am happy to tell you that he is just as nice as he always appears to be and has remained the same to his friends in spite of his colossal success. When we do meet sometimes after a gap of two or three years it is just as though we had met five minutes before. I think that is the best I can say of anyone.

Please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Buchanan

***** C R O Z T A L K

by

J e a n R a i n e y.

Bing made his American television debut (his first own show) on January 3rd. At the moment of going to press we have not yet received full details but we do know the first Crosby television programme was successful. The entire show was on film and is reported to have been very clear so it looks as though all the research resorted to by the 'Crosby Research Backroom Boys' was worth while.

The show kicked off with Bing singing "Y'all Come" after saying a few introductory words. This number was given a ranch type setting. We are pleased to say that Bing has recently recorded this song and it is said to be the best of his current recordings. He also sang "Changing Partners" (also a recent Bing waxing). JACK BENNY and a blonde dancer called SHEREL NORTH were Bing's guest stars. We hope to give you fuller details next month. As a matter of fact we did expect these complete details of this rather important Crosby move to arrive in time for this issue and we hesitated going to press so we might be able to give you them. Unfortunately, the real gen is coming over by sea mail which takes a little time so we shall hope to tell you all in our anniversary issue of "Crosby Post". Meanwhile, you can be content to know that Bing has taken the plunge into the modern idiom and has emerged successfully.

No settlement has yet been reached in regard to the million dollar lawsuit against Bing - you will find all the news about this in the Hollywood article, "Something to groan about" on page four.

We have just discovered another of our members who is 'hiding his light under a bushel'. He was mentioned for a different reason in last December's paper and he is Arthur Groves. This time he shines as song composer and HE has a publisher! Although we didn't learn of his talent until a few weeks ago, Arthur has been writing songs for about eight months. His published song, "The WINDMILL MAN" was written for a children's party held near Christmas at Arthur's workplace, British Lion Film Studios. Arthur Groves says he wrote this song, which he terms a simple little tune, ~~xxx~~ without meaning it to be anything much, but, much to his surprise a friend of a publisher visiting the studio took a liking to the song when he heard it being played and took a liking to it. Before Arthur knew where he was his song had been accepted for publication. The RADIO REVELLERS are reported to be interested in the song and there is a fifty-fifty chance they might record it for Parlophone. Naturally, Arthur's biggest thrill would be for Bing to sing/ record his song and who knows with Arthur's recent good fortune this dream may materialise. Arthur has also written two other songs, "BEAUTIFUL ILLUSION" which JAMES MASON played on one of his record sessions - and "GXRACE DARLING". As a conclusion we say, "Watch out Tin Pan Alley" here comes Arthur Groves!!! Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of our talented member's song which is published at 1/- per copy, is asked to write to ARTHUR GROVES, 215, Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, LONDON - S.W.18. If any other member has excelled himself in entertainment or the 'celebrated' world we would like to hear from them. We have an author and a song writer - what can you do?????

Well, Bing has now completed "White Christmas" but it won't be coming your way until this summer. He has rest from films until March when he co-stars in "The COUNTRY GIRL" with WILLIAM HOLDEN and JENNIFER JONES. There are to be songs in this film drama and we remind you that Bing sings twelve songs in Berlin's "White Christmas"

A happy new year to all.

HAS LADY LUCK DERSEITED HER FAVOURITE?



SOMETHING to GROAN ABOUT



MODERN SCREEN FEATURETTE) DELL COPYRIGHT.

When Bing Crosby was a young man thirty or so years ago, he was considred so irresponsible that to most people he seemed unlikely to be 'husband' material.

But once he was married to Wilma Wyatt, a beautiful thrush from Memphis who sang under the name of Dixie Lee, Bing settled down and became a family man - a model family man!

For twenty years Bing has led a charmed life, setting the most phenomenal records in show business. His records have sold more than eighty million copies and his forty-seven movies have grossed more than a billion dollars.

Through all this the Crosby name has never once been tarnished by scandal or tainted by rumour. Bing's family have always been regarded as one of the happiest and most wholesome in Hollywood. And until Dixie passed away last year the household had managed to steer clear of tragedy.

Having counted his blessings, Bing has always referred to himeslf as "the luckiest guy on earth". In fact, when he wrote his autobiography he insisted on the title, CALL ME LUCKY.

As happens to all men Bing Crosby's luck ran out a few Sundays ago when, at five-thirty in the morning, his \$12, 250 German sports car, a Mercedes Benz, collided~~x~~ with a late model sedan in a Los Angeles street intersection (crossroads).

Alone in his flashy convertible, manufactured by the oldest firm of motor car makers in the world, Bing cracked a vertebra in his back and wrenched his knee so badly that he couldn't report for work for several days on the set of "White Christmas".

As you read in the Christmas Crosby Pest, there were three occupants in the other car, and two of these were seriously hurt. One a Los Angeles City fireman was suffering from a major head concussion and for a while it was touch and go as to whether he would live. Fortunately we can now say he has survived.

Bing told a State Highway Patrolman, "I came down and came to an idle stop when I came to the intersection. I looked both ways, saw no cars and started across. There was a crash, and I lost control. That's all I know."

After Bing made this statement he left the scene of the accident in a hurry. His Mercedes Benz, which he bought in Stuttgart, Germany last summer was so badly smashed it had to be towed away. Garagemen who later submitted a \$3, 000 repairs estimate, say, "He's a lucky guy to be alive. If he'd been driving some ordinary car, it would have buckled like an accordion, and the steering whell would have gone straight through his hest. Either that or he would have gone through the windshield."

As a result of this accident, as you alr ady know, Bing has become the target of several lawsuits. He has always been known as a careful driver but it does seem that the Groaner has something to groan about, for a change.

Typically, when Hollywood heard about the smash-up they asked first where he had been and who he'd been with. No one asked if he was hurt/. Bing wouldn't say but Mona Freeman said he was stone cold sober when he took her home after they had both been to Claudette Colbert's party. Bing has now decided to counter sue. He asserts that the other driver was driving without due care and attention and in a sleepy condition.

Crosby Post

Crosby New Year Quiz

Answers at foot of page.....

- 1/ Bing is often mentioned and often makes a personal appearance in Bob Hope films but, has Bing ever mentioned Bob Hope in one of his films - excluding the 'road' series and 'big guest star films'?
- 2/ Give the title of Bing's independently produced film released in Columbia Pictures.
- 3/ Name two films in which Bing has sung to the credit titles.
- 4/ In what country were the outdoor scenes for "The Emperor Waltz" filmed?
- 5/ Bing's European bought Mercedes-Benz motor car has been in the news recently. Which other major star and great longstanding close friend of Bing's also owns a Mercedes-Benz?
- 6/ In which film did Bing sing to a bear?
- 7/ On Bing's two recent visits to London he has appeared at charity performances at two famous London theatres. Name both these theatres.
- 8/ In what film did the late Robert Benchley relate the comedy version of Bing Crosby's life story?
- 9/ One of Bing's earlier song successes was featured in a modern postwar 1940 star studded musical comedy film. The song appeared and was played as a gramophone record in an old gramophone record factory. What was the name of the film?
- 10/ Bing once sang before the late President Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill. What song did the British Prime Minister request Bing to sing?

Mr. BRIAN D. JONES, 23 Plas road, Fleur-de-Lis, Pengam, Monmouthshire. wants the following Crosby deletions:-

1. "I'm Hummin', I'm Whistlin', I'm Singin'."
2. "Goodnight Lovely Little Lady."
3. "Someone Stole Gabriel's Horn."
4. "Down The Old Ox Road."
5. "Ain't She Sweet".
6. "La Golondrina."

Brian has only just started 'getting interested' in Bing's deletions and would welcome offers of most other deletions particularly 'blow - ups.

PERSONAL: Will the member who asked about a correspondent whose name and address he had mislaid please note that the correspondent was probably Mr. JOHN HARRIS, NAUNTON, UPTON(O)N(SEVERN, WORCESTER) SHIRE.

-- Ed.

ANSWERS TO CROSBY QUIZ. 1/Yes, in "Welcome Stranger". 2/"Pennies From Heaven". 3/"Birth of the Blues" & "Top of the Morning". 4/Canada. 5/Gary Cooper who bought three Mercedes-Benz cars for \$30,000 and sold two at a profit of over \$2,000. Bing bought one. 6/"Where Not Dressing". 7/xx The Leicester Square Theatre and The Stoll Theatre. 8/"Duffy's Tavern". 9/"Duffy's Tavern". 10/"You Are My Sunshine" which was composed by the Governor of Louisiana, Jimmie Davis.

Crosby Post

The

Crosby Waxworks by Colin Pugh.



Since our Christmas issue we have not had a Crosby record release on 78 rpm - but, in January we can purchase 05224 which carries two songs by Bing and son - Gary: "What a little moonlight can do" and "Down by the riverside". Some of you may have heard Jack Jackson's recent airing of the latter title over the BBC. It's quite an attractive duet and I'm rather looking forward to hearing it's backing, and wondering if it's a new rendering of an old tune of that title.

In addition to this solitary disc - which I shall review in detail next month - we have two more L.P.'S. The first was available prior to my last review. It's number is Brunswick LA 8620 and owing to shortage of available space I regret I was unable to tell you about it last "Crosby Post". LA 8620 is entitled "Down Memory Lane" VOLUME 1, and contains: "Please", "I found a million dollar baby", "I wonder what's become of Sally", "Mary's a grand old name", "I'm waiting for ships that never come in", "When day is done", "I don't want to walk without you", and "Moonlight Cocktail". The second L.P. is Brunswick LA 8624 and is entitled (again) "Down Memory Lane" but this is VOLUME 2 and contains: "I'd love to live in love-land", "Love thy neighbour", "Too Marvellous for words", "Wrap your troubles in dreams", "Oh! how I miss you tonight", "Dear Little boy of mine", "September Song", and "Temptation". This latter L.P. is also available on American Decca records as DL 5343.

Many of you may not know that, in addition to the version of "Silent Night" which Bing recorded with the Max Terr choir in 1942, available on 03929, he also recorded another version with the same choir five years later (in 1947). The matrix number of the 1942 version is DLA 3026, whereas the matrix number of the 1947 version is L 4375. The surprising thing about this later version is that our English Decca decided to press it under the 1942 catalogue number 63929 - instead of issuing it as a new release which it obviously was. The new version's matrix number, L 4375, may be found engraved in the wax of some pressings. The old Brunswick black and gold labels are still being used and the earlier matrix number, DLA 3026 is to be seen in brackets above the large catalogue number. So those of you wishing to obtain the later version need to study the matrix numbers pressed in the wax of these recordings at your local record dealers. An alternate source for the 1947 recording may be found on American Decca on a 45rpm disc - 9-23777. I am indebted to Tom Colborn of London for this last piece of information.

Collectors who have had the English Brunswick version of "A Faded Summer Love" on 01240 for many years know that no matrix number appears either on the label or on the "wax". They will, therefore, be pleased to learn that the current pressings do carry the matrix number - E 37282 A - but you've got to look for it on the actual "wax" for it is not printed on the Brunswick label. Lift up the disc until the light plays on it at the right angle to reflect to reflect the writing which has been superimposed on the label by the pressing action in manufacture. The full title ~~xxx~~ with the name BING CROSBY and the matrix number appear as freehand writing. I pity the poor record dealers now that many of you have read this. I'm sure they would think we're crazy!

THE NEXT ISSUE OF "CROSBY POST" WILL BE THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF THE CROSBY SOCIETY BEING FOUNDED. Look for it on FEBRUARY 15.

AN X HERE → SIGNIFIES YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE.